

for contracting to purchase ten million tons of coal from South Africa (12977). He was among the first five persons arrested at the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C. in the "Free South Africa" campaign (1984). He co-chaired the 1990 Nelson Mandela visit to Atlanta following his release from prison and awarded Mandela the SCLC/Martin Luther King, Jr. Human Rights Award. He was keynote speaker at the African Renaissance Dinner in Durban in 1998 honoring Mandela's retirement. He was invited to keynote the dedication of a school and hospital in East Germany honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. He led a peace delegation to the Middle East and met with the president of Lebanon and Yassir Arafat to seek justice in the Middle East by non-violent means. He led protests against the dumping of toxic waste in Warrenton County, N.C., and was arrested twice in this campaign which gave birth to the environmental justice movement.

He served on the board of directors of MARTA (Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority) for 23 years and was chairman for three years (during the '96 Olympics), and was instrumental in securing millions in contracts for minority businesses. Since retiring from the pulpit in 1997 and SCLC in January 1998, he has helped black farmers secure a federal court decree valued at \$2 billion against the Department of Agriculture for discrimination. He assisted black auto dealers to seek redress from discrimination claims against auto manufacturers. He has supported black concert promoters in their fight against exclusionary policies of talent agencies. As convener of the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda (CPA), he is active in election reform and voter empowerment, economic justice, criminal justice reform, including alternative sentencing and a moratorium on the death penalty.

He is married to Evelyn Gibson Lowery, an activist in her own right, founder of SCLC/WOMEN and is the father of five children.

Lowery has received numerous awards, including an NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award and the Martin Luther King Center Peace Award. Essence has twice named him as one of the Fifteen Greatest Black Preachers. Lowery is married to Evelyn Gibson Lowery, an activist in her own right.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained in meetings with the regional leaders of my Congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcalls 282, 283, 284 and 285.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE LITERACY, EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION ACT (LERA)

### HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Literacy, Education and

Rehabilitation Act (LERA). The purpose of LERA is to reduce recidivism and the victimization and costs, fiscal and social, associated with such recidivism. Studies have shown that inmate participation in education, vocational and job training, prison work skills development, drug abuse, mental health and other treatment programs, all reduce recidivism, significantly.

The Federal prison population has increased more than 7-fold over the past 20 years. In 1984, the population was about 25,000 prisoners. Today, there are more than 175,000 prisoners, and the population is growing. According to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the primary reasons for this tremendous growth has been longer sentences resulting from the 1984 Sentencing Reform Act and mandatory minimum sentences. The Sentencing Reform Act established determinate sentencing, abolished parole, and dramatically reduced good time credits. Other sentencing policy by Congressional or administrative action has increasingly limited the discretion of judges and prison officials to impact sentence lengths or confinement options.

During the same period, the annual number of prisoners returning to communities has also increased several fold. Currently, about 40,000 prisoners leave Federal prisons each year. The question is whether they leave prison better prepared to lead law-abiding lives, or in a worse position to do so. The addition of a felony record and a Federal prison stay is not, in and of itself, likely to add to a person's job or social development prospects.

Unfortunately, the elimination of incentives such as parole, good time credits and funding for college courses, means that fewer inmates participate in and excel in literacy, education, treatment and other development programs. LERA provides incentives and recognitions for achievement by giving the BOP Director the discretion to grant up to 60 sentence credit days per year to an inmate for successful participation in literacy, education, work training, treatment and other development programs. LERA will not only prevent crime victimizations, but also save taxpayers money. Many sentences are excessively long because mandatory sentencing policies do not allow sentencing judges the discretion to distinguish between hardened criminals and those amenable to rehabilitation and preparation for successful re-entry. LERA allows offenders to distinguish themselves.

#### FREEDOM FOR FABIO PRIETO LLORENTE

### HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Fabio Prieto Llorente a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Prieto Llorente is an independent journalist for the independent press agency of Isla de Pinos. Instead of the false propaganda mandated by the regime, he writes about the reality of the reprehensible repression inflicted on the Cuban people by the dictatorship. Because of his belief in truth in print, truth for the people of Cuba and truth to enable the world

to better comprehend the daily horrors of totalitarian Cuba, Mr. Prieto Llorente was a target of the totalitarian regime.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Prieto Llorente received threats and warnings from Castro's thugs in order to prevent him from pursuing his career as a truthful journalist. He was detained in January 2002 simply because he reported on an opposition demonstration. On March 19, 2003, Mr. Prieto Llorente was arrested because he published the facts about the tyrannical regime.

He was arrested as part of the despicable island wide crackdown of that month on peaceful pro-democracy activists. In a sham trial, Mr. Prieto Llorente was sentenced to 20 years in the infernal totalitarian gulag. While incarcerated in the grotesque squalor of the atrocious gulag, he has been held in solitary confinement, confined with common criminals, suffered from violent headaches and lack of medical care. Let us be very clear, Mr. Prieto Llorente is languishing in unspeakable squalor because he published the truth.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that journalists such as Mr. Prieto Llorente are locked in dungeons for writing and publishing the facts about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. At the dawn of the 21st Century, it must no longer be acceptable for anyone in the world, anywhere in the world, to be locked in a gulag for writing the truth. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Fabio Prieto Llorente and every prisoner of conscience languishing in the Cuban dictatorship's abhorrent gulag.

#### WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL DEDICATION A SUCCESS; WEEKEND OF MAY 29, 2004

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the staff of the American Battle Monuments Commission and the World War II Project for all their efforts in ensuring a very successful dedication of the World War II National Memorial: General P.X. Kelley, Chairman, American Battle Monuments Commission; Major General John Herrling, Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission; Mr. Kenneth Pond, Executive Director, American Battle Monuments Commission; Mr. Mike Conley, Associate Executive Director, National World War II Memorial Project; Mr. Bob Patrick, Director, National World War II Memorial Dedication; Mr. Dick Couture, Director, Marketing and Member Services, National World War II Memorial; Ms. Betsy Glick, Director, Communications, National World War II Memorial Project; and Mr. Barry Owenby, Project Executive, National World War II Memorial Project.

These individuals, along with their staffs, worked untold months to ensure that the weekend of May 29, 2004, will live on in the hearts of the veterans and families of the "Greatest Generation."

More than 150,000 people attended the May 29, 2004, dedication ceremony of the first national memorial built to honor all of the Americans who served their country during World War II. Millions more were able to watch the